Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device configured to:

receive a first information packet originating from a client;

in response to the first information packet, identify a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, perform an operation of a server application in response to the first information packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, output a second information packet to the second computing device, wherein the second computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure, the reference being included within a single header of the second information packet.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the second information packet includes the first information packet.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the reference includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

4.   (Original)   The system of Claim 3 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

5.   (Original)   The system of Claim 3 wherein the port of the first application is a UDP port.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein the first computing device is configured to receive the first information packet through a global computer network.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 6 wherein the first computing device is configured to:
        when the identified computing device is a second computing device, output the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein the server application is a socket-based application.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein the first information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is configured to receive the first information packet in response to the addressing.

11.   (Previously Presented)   A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:
        receiving a first information packet originating from a client;

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in response to the first information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation of a server application in response to the first information packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting a second information packet to the second computing device, wherein the second computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure, the reference being included within a single header of the second information packet.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the second information packet includes the first information packet.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the reference includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the port of the first application is a UDP port.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the method comprises:
receiving the first information packet through a global computer network.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 16 wherein the method comprises:

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 11 wherein the application is a socket-based application.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 11 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

20.   (Original)   The method of Claim 11 wherein the first information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:

receiving the first information packet in response to the addressing.

21.-44. (Canceled)

45.   (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

46.   (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the first computing device is a first server in a server farm and the second computing device is a second server in the server farm.

47.   (New) The method of claim 46 wherein

receiving the first information packet originating from the client comprises routing the first information packet to the first server through a first network; and

identifying the computing device that stores the data structure of the connection with the client comprises identifying a destination server in the server farm that stores the data structure of the connection with the client.

48.   (New) The method of claim 47 wherein

when the identified destination server is the first server, performing the operation of the server application in response to the first information packet comprises executing, by the first server, a server application associated with the received packet; and

when the identified destination server is the second server, outputting the second information packet to the second computing device comprises:

generating the second information packet; and

forwarding the second information packet to the second server through a second network.

49.   (New) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device comprising:

means for receiving a first information packet originating from a client;

means for responding to the first information packet by identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

means for selectively performing an operation of a server application configured to perform the operation when the identified computing device is the first computing device; and

means for selectively outputting a second information packet to a second computing device configured to output the second information packet to the second computing device when the identified computing device is the second computing device, wherein the second computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure, the reference being included within a single header of the second information packet.

50.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the second information packet includes the first information packet.

51.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the reference includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

52.   (New) The system of Claim 51 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

53.   (New) The system of Claim 51 wherein the port of the first application is a UDP port.

54.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the means for receiving is configured to receive the first information packet through a global computer network.

55.   (New) The system of Claim 54 wherein the means for selectively outputting is configured to:

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, output the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

56.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the server application is a socket-based application.

57.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

58.   (New) The system of Claim 49 wherein the first information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the means for receiving is configured to receive the first information packet in response to the addressing.

59.   (New) The system of claim 49 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.

60.   (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a first computing device to process information, by performing a method comprising:

receiving a first information packet originating from a client;

in response to the first information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation of a server application in response to the first information packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting a second information packet to the second computing device, wherein the second computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure, the reference being included within a single header of the second information packet.

61.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the second information packet includes the first information packet.

62.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the reference includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

63.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 62 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

64.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the computer-readable medium is a memory of a computer device.

65.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the first information packet is received through a global computer network.

66.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the computer-readable medium is a data transmission medium transmitting a generated data signal containing the contents.

67.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the application is a socket-based application.

68.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 60 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.